



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

February 1, 2023

6:30 p.m.

**Select Board members Present:** Wesley Daniel, Thomas Johnston and Mitchell Garnett

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson, residents Steve Ocean and David Williams, EMA Director Donald Grinnell and Bruce Metric from Waldo Theatre

Wes Daniel called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Jan. 25, 2023:** Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Feb. 2, 2023:**

P/R Warrant #9: \$14,902.41

A/P Warrant #10: \$14,618.99

Motion to approve warrants by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Road Foreman Report:** Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Wes Daniel

Jan. 22: Called in to plow: Frank, Steven, Jonathan and Jason

Jan. 23: Plowed snow, Frank called Ricky in to help; P300 broke down – needs tensioner pulley for fan belt – Frank called Travis Kilbreth to fix it

Jan. 24: Travis worked on P300

Jan. 25: Frank and Travis continued to work on P300; put salt in and mixed up sand; called in guys to plow

Jan. 26: Plowed and sanded for ice

Jan. 27: Called out to sand for spotty ice

**CEO Report:** None; **Health Officer Report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson has reached out to Mike Mayo about moderating the annual town meeting in March. Sara Bullard would like to be on the agenda next week. Thursday, 29 courtesy letters will be mailed to those who still owe 2021 taxes; the letter explains the timeline and steps involved in the foreclosure process. Mary renewed her notary license, which was set to expire in March.

**Broadband update:** Mitch asked if the monthly meetings with Tilson, the company overseeing the Broadband grants, are recorded. Mary said she would find out.

**Other Agenda Items:** Waldoboro resident Bruce Metric from Waldo Theatre spoke about the restoration of and current programming at the theater. Live performances featuring music, speakers and plays have resumed and streaming of films and some live events continues. Bruce talked about education and community outreach efforts as well as sharing a few stories people have shared about their history with the theater. In the future, Waldo Theatre will seek financial support from area towns.

**Other business:** Wes said Select Board members will have an executive session at 6:30 p.m. next week at the request of Peg Hobbs of the Recreation Committee.

EMA Director Don Grinnell said he has nearly completed the FEMA report for the Dec. 23, 2022, storm. He estimated it cost the town about \$38,000 in labor, chipping and materials/sand. Some Knox County towns have not yet submitted costs so the county hasn't reached its \$180,000 threshold, but if it does the county damage estimate will go to Maine Emergency Management Agency before the governor can seek an emergency declaration. If the town is reimbursed, it will be for 75 percent of the \$38,000. Don said there is additional work to complete in the spring and the cost of that work can be added to the damage estimate at a later date. Wes made a motion to accept the work Don has done; Tom seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Questions/comments:** None.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell

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Budget Committee meeting 7 p.m.

Budget Committee members present: Chair Don Grinnell, Dave Williams, Wendy Carr, Kathy Ocean, Deb Bocko, Joan Tognacci and Jesse Casas (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Others present: Select Board members Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston and Mitch Garnett; Town Clerk Mary Anderson

Don called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Tom updated Budget Committee members on new information added to the spreadsheet since the last meeting, including a new request from Assessor's Agent Rebecca Adams to create a rollover account for property revaluation. The account will start with \$20,000 and add the same amount each year for five years for a total of \$100,000. The revaluation will be a walk-around type, with much of the information being computerized for the first time. Tom warned that the revaluation may result in higher taxes on certain properties but not others. Mary said Becky – who was not able to attend the meeting but offered to call in – estimates a cost of between \$85 and \$90 per parcel. There are about 1,500 parcels in town. The revaluation could be done by Becky and two others, or hired out.

Budget Committee members talked about the assessments due for TriCounty Solid Waste (no solid numbers yet, as meetings have been delayed because of weather) and Union Ambulance. Jesse, who is on the Ambulance Advisory Committee, said the estimate for Washington's portion is \$146,699 – a 27 percent increase from last year. The increase will allow for the hire of one full-time employee. Jesse said even without adding staffing, the budget would increase by 10 percent. After being a vocal critic of the ambulance budget increase last year, Jesse said he has learned a lot from the committee about how the service works and what the costs are. Don said the budget should be corrected to reflect the anticipated cost. Kathy made a motion to recommend \$455,296 for assessments, Deb seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Insurance costs also were updated. Dave made a motion to recommend \$26,961, Kathy seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Mary explained the credits shown for FICA, SIMPLE IRA and health insurance are employee contributions. Kathy made a motion to recommend \$79,345 for the three items, Wendy seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

For town rollover accounts, Kathy made a motion to recommend \$68,500, Wendy seconded; all in favor, motion carries. This includes the new revaluation fund.

Don said he needs to replace some flag holders so the line for flags under miscellaneous accounts needs to increase by \$150. Jesse made a motion to recommend \$750, Kathy seconded; all in favor, motion carries. Dave made a motion to recommend \$25,529 for miscellaneous accounts, Deb seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

After some discussion about Gary Owen House – the veterans' organization did not put in a request for funding and Mary has reached out several times – and Waldo County Community Action Program, Dave made a motion to recommend \$13,197 for Social Agencies and Concerns that was seconded by Wendy; all in favor, motion carries. The amount does not include money for Gary Owen House. Don noted the amounts can be lowered at town meeting but can't be increased. Budget Committee members requested someone from Waldo CAP be present at town meeting to talk about the organization – its request jumped to \$5,276 this year from \$253 last year.

Looking at other anticipated costs, purchase of an excavator was talked about: a \$40,000 downpayment could come from American Rescue Plan Act funding, leaving about \$64,000 to finance. Don wondered if the equipment rental line could be reduced if an excavator is purchased but Select Board members recommend leaving the amount as is because much of the rental is paid from LRAP (Local Roads Assistance Program) – loans/financing can't be paid with LRAP funds.

The next Budget Committee meeting was set for Feb. 22 with a backup date of March 1, depending on when the audit is complete.

Dave made a motion to adjourn, Deb seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.